

September 27th 1969

Bromley v Wycombe

WHAT A HOLD UP!

... but it's Len to the rescue

Bromley 0, Wycombe Wanderers 1

HELD UP in traffic on their way to Hayes Lane, Wycombe did not arrive for Saturday's Isthmian League match until five minutes before the scheduled kick-off time. They also left it late when it came to scoring, for there were only ten minutes to go when Len Worley snatched the goal which enabled Wycombe to complete the double over lowly Bromley.

Wycombe beat Bromley 5-0 in the opening match of the season at Loakes Park, and Bromley conceded another 24 goals in their next four games.

A change in management quickly halted the slide, and Bromley are not giving goals away so cheaply these days, as Wycombe found out on Saturday.

But Bromley can count themselves lucky to have got away so lightly, for Wycombe dictated

play from the first whistle and would not have been flattered if they won by three or four goals.

That they failed to capitalise on their colossal territorial advantage can be put down to two factors—their own sub-standard finishing, and some smart work by Alan Soper, who was Bromley's third-choice goalkeeper at the start of the season.

Having had to change hurriedly immediately after their two-hour coach trip, Wycombe were understandably a little slow to settle down.

And with Bromley playing a back row of five most of the time, many of Wycombe's carefully built up attacks were snuffed out by sheer weight of numbers.

With the defensive formation that they employed Bromley had to rely mainly on long passes for Nottage and Stonebridge to chase, but with Ian Rundle and Keith Stephenson patrolling the middle effectively, this tactic rarely looked like doing the trick.

Len Worley was, as usual, a frequent thorn in the side of Bromley's overworked defenders. In the first half one of his corner kicks lured Soper off his line, but though he failed to collect it the ball was cleared before a Wycombe forward could take advantage.

Wycombe might also have scored on the half-hour when Soper collided with team-mate Bonney, and the ball ran loose. But again, no Wycombe forward was on the spot, and Bonney had time to pick himself up and scramble the ball away.

Then Soper had to tip a Worley cross over the bar, and from the corner Rundle's header was cleared from under the bar by Brockman.

Before half-time Soper made another fine save—this time from a cannonball free kick by Horseman—and in the second half the Bromley keeper was in almost constant action.

Wycombe had one let-off in the 67th minute when Bromley's Lennox challenged John Maskell in the goalmouth, and the ball went via the keeper and a post for a corner.

But justice was done in the 80th minute when, following a quick throw-in on the left, Horseman scurried to the bye line and pulled the ball back for Worley to accept a simple chance.

Bromley: Soper; Bridne, Brockman, Brown (P.), Bonney, Pettet; Brown (C.), Lennox, Stonebridge, Nottage, Mears. Sub.: Owen for Brown (C.).

Wycombe: Maskell; Temel, Gale; Rundle, Stephenson, Thomas; Worley, Baker, Horseman, Ward, Anthony. Sub.: Samuel (not used).